COMMUNITY

Page 7 – El Zocalo Lounge Brings Back Nightlife to Mexicantown

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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COMMUNITY

Page 8 – Connecting With The Heart Of Detroit, Programming At Ralph Wilson Park

Católicos de Detroit marchan en solidaridad con los inmigrantes exigiendo un trato humano.

Por Kaylee Razo

En la húmeda mañana del lunes 14 de julio, más de 600 feligreses, clérigos, estudiantes y activistas se reunieron en Detroit para una solemne procesión hacia la Oficina Regional de Detroit del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) de Estados Unidos.

La procesión, organizada por la ONG católica en defensa de los inmigrantes, *Strangers No Longer* y apoyada por la Arquidiócesis de Detroit, fue una declaración contra la severa aplicación de la ley migratoria y las amenazas a la dignidad humana y el debido proceso.

La gran multitud, vestida mayoritariamente de blanco, caminó en silencio, guiada por el ritmo de un solo tambor. Llevaban carteles y pancartas con mensajes de apoyo a los inmigrantes, con la esperanza de crear conciencia en la comunidad y abogar por un cambio, con la entrega de una carta al director interino de la oficina de ICE en Detroit, Kevin Raycraft. La carta exigía un trato humano a los inmigrantes y el fin de las deportaciones injustas. Aunque los representantes de ICE se negaron a aceptar la carta o reunirse con los líderes comunitarios, el grupo afirma que no se rendirá y usará otras estrategias para abogar por un cambio.

La mañana comenzó con la bendición del arzobispo Edward J. Weisenburger, quien ofreció una oración conmovedora: "Nos llamas a venerar tu presencia en todos aquellos con quienes nos

Continúa en la pág. 2

Fr. David Buersmeyer y Mrs. Judith Brooks de Strangers No Longer / hablan a los participantes de la procesión frente a la oficina de campo de ICE en Detroit / address procession participants in front of the field office of ICE in Detroit. Foto de/Photo by Valaurian Waller | Detroit Catholic

Detroit Catholics Walk in Solidarity with Immigrants, Demand Humane Treatment

By Kaylee Razo

On the humid Monday morning of July 14, around 600 parishioners, clergy members, students, and activists gathered in Detroit for a solemn procession to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detroit Regional Field Office.

The procession, organized by the Catholic immigration advocacy group *Strangers No Longer* and supported by the Archdiocese of Detroit, was a statement against harsh immigration enforcement and threats to human dignity and due process.

The large crowd, dressed mostly in white, walked in silence, led by the beat of a single drum. They carried signs and banners with messages supporting immigrants, hoping to raise awareness within the community and advocate for change by delivering a letter to the acting director of the Detroit field office of ICE, Kevin Raycraft. The letter demanded the humane treatment of immigrants and an end to unjust deportations. Although ICE representatives declined to accept the letter or meet with community leaders, the group says they refuse to give up and will continue utilizing other efforts to advocate for change.

The morning began with a blessing from Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger, who offered a pointed prayer: "You call us to revere

Continued on page 2

From Latin Boogaloo to Electric Vibes, Latino Music Moves the Crowd at Concert of Colors

By Martina Guzmán

Detroit's Concert of Colors is back for its 34th year, and like always, it's more than just a music festival. It's a celebration of community, culture, and resistance, and this year, Latino artists are at the heart of it.

From the soul-shaking rhythms of Spanglish Fly, a 12-piece Latin Boogaloo band, to the fierce, electric sound of Eljuri, the lineup highlights the range and power of Latin music across the diaspora. It's a reminder that Latino music isn't a genre, it's a universe.

Happening July 15–20, the Concert of Colors takes over Midtown with music, conversations, and cross-cultural connections. It's the largest world music festival in the U.S., and it's free.

More than nine stages will showcase local and international artists, including Detroit's own Sean Blackman, Shadow Show, and Mike-E, whose "Detroit to Ethiopia" project brings musicians from both cities together in a one-of-a-kind performance.

"This year's theme is 'Get Up, Stand Up for Your Rights,'" said Ismael Ahmed, Concert of Colors founder and executive director.

But the festival isn't just about music. The Forum on Community, Culture & Race brings artists, organizers, and thinkers together to explore how art and activism intersect. This year's theme, "The Homelands in Our Bodies: Embodying Artivism," asks what it means to carry culture, memory, and struggle in our bones.

Writer Ijeoma Oluo will give the keynote, followed by a conversation with artists and activists, including Cyrah Dardas, Firas Zreik, SouFy, and Tongo Eisen-Martin, moderated by AANM artist-in-residence Raed.

Over the past three decades, Concert of Colors has grown from a modest gathering at Chene Park, sparked by

New York-based band Spanglish Fly brings their brass-fantastic renewal of boogaloo, the Latin soul tradition of the 1960s, to the Concert of Colors. Photo courtesy of Concert of Colors

the tragic 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, into a dynamic and joyful expression of Detroit's multicultural spirit. At a time when arts funding is shrinking and public events are increasingly privatized, this festival remains a shining example of what it means to invest in collective joy and justice.

Whether you're dancing at Spot Lite or tuning in online, the Concert of Colors is a reminder of what public space can sound like when it centers justice, creativity, and belonging. It's one of the few festivals left that hasn't been swallowed up by corporate sponsors or $200 wristbands—and that's part of what makes it feel like home.

cont on pg.4

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3 **Community** Love@Nite Unites Detroit and the Diaspora in a Night of Music, Art, and Cultural Fusion

5 **Community** Candidatos del Distrito 6 hablan sobre inmigración y contaminación

7 **Community** Senate Theater Says 'No Problem' to No AC with 'Hot, Sweaty & Weird' Film Series

8 **Community** Connecting With The Heart Of Detroit

10 **Sports** Tony Harrison Signed To Shields Card At LCA

13 **Opinion** LULAC Hails Federal Court Victory Preserving Birthright Citizenship In The United States

14 **World Cultures** Jicarilla Apaches

Católicos en solidaridad con los inmigrantes

Con'd de pg. 1

encontramos, pero especialmente en los pobres, los necesitados, los que sufren y los inmigrantes. Te pedimos que conmuevas los corazones de todos los miembros de nuestra gran nación para que regresen a nuestras raíces de genuino respeto por los derechos humanos de todos y la dignidad inherente de todas las personas. Que una vez más lideremos al mundo con nuestro ejemplo de compasión y bienvenida".

Desde la Iglesia Católica de Santa Ana, dos mujeres inmigrantes mexicanas, Martha Díaz e Imelda Torres, compartieron lo que las inspiró a participar. "Estamos aportando nuestro granito de arena para todos los inmigrantes indocumentados para que podamos lograr algo", dijo Torres. "Hay muchas personas que no merecen ser expulsadas de este país porque son personas humildes, trabajadoras y honestas. Y por eso estamos aquí". Marianne Bernard, otra participante, llevaba un cartel que decía "Educación, no deportación". Cuando se le preguntó qué la motivó a llevar ese mensaje, explicó: "Hay muchas personas que están siendo deportadas y que solo están aquí para estudiar. No están aquí para delinquir. Están aquí por un sueño. Le diría a cualquiera que los considere peligrosos que se eduque. La mayoría de los inmigrantes huyen de las dificultades o buscan oportunidades, no causar daño".

Donna Salogar, ministra del campus de la escuela secundaria y academia católica Shrine, enfatizó la importancia de la participación cívica: "Los jóvenes son los líderes. Pueden ayudar a cambiar las cosas. Tienen voz y derecho a ser escuchados". Animó tanto a adultos como a jóvenes a involucrarse: "Necesitamos su voz, de una forma u otra. Asistan a las reuniones de los Círculos de Apoyo, escribanles a sus senadores, contacten a su iglesia". Chisomaga Nwoke, estudiante y líder del Consejo Juvenil de Stranger No Longer, conectó la causa con su fe católica: "Jesús apoyó a los inmigrantes, y es nuestro deber como seguidores suyos defender a los más marginados".

George, otro estudiante, explicó por qué creía que era importante que los jóvenes participaran. "Tenemos toda la vida para lidiar con las consecuencias de lo que está haciendo este gobierno. Así que depende de nosotros intentar detenerlo".

Mayte Penman, Inés De Jesús, Nemecia De Jesús, Irma Landin-Obregón • Foto de Mayte Penman

Espíritu prímitivo • Foto de Tom Tomala

Mónica Tay Bejej, directora de la Clínica Legal de Inmigración de Caridades Católicas, destacó el papel de la Iglesia en la satisfacción de las necesidades tanto espirituales como materiales: "Intentamos realizar las obras de misericordia a las que la Iglesia nos llama, ayudando a las personas sin hogar, a las mujeres embarazadas, a los inmigrantes y a cualquier persona que enfrente dificultades".

También reconoció la complejidad del debate sobre la inmigración. Respetamos el estado de derecho y la necesidad de seguridad, pero nos preocupa la falta del debido proceso y las acciones inhumanas que hemos estado presenciando. A cualquier inmigrante que sienta miedo en este momento, le diría: su miedo no es infundado. Pero sepan que hay muchos que los apoyan, rezan por ustedes y esperan algo mejor.

Gregg Krupa, miembro del Equipo de Meta Peace y de la Michigan Coalition on Human Rights, explicó su frustración: "Las acciones que se están tomando son antiestadounidenses e impías. Personas que pagan impuestos y trabajan duro están siendo emboscadas sin audiencias. Ese no es el Estados Unidos en el que creemos".

El padre David Buersmeyer, veterano defensor y capellán de *Strangers No Longer*, describió el futuro del movimiento. A partir de agosto, realizaremos vigilias de oración semanales frente al Edificio Federal todos los miércoles de 7:30 a 8:00 a. m. Es un momento para escuchar, orar y apoyar. También seguimos ampliando los Círculos de Apoyo en parroquias y escuelas. Estos pequeños grupos ayudan con el acompañamiento, la educación, la defensa, e incluso simplemente ofrecen transporte o se presentan ante el tribunal para ofrecer solidaridad.

Animó a los inmigrantes y aliados a conectarse localmente. "No tienen que hacerlo solos. Si su parroquia no tiene y quiere formar un Círculo de Apoyo, podemos ayudarle a crear uno. El objetivo es conocer gente y escuchar sus historias. Así es como cambiamos corazones.

Después de la procesión, Bill O'Brien, director ejecutivo de *Strangers No Longer*, compartió que la oficina del senador de Michigan, Gary Peters, se había puesto en contacto con ellos y les había solicitado una copia de la carta para entregarla directamente a los líderes de ICE, después de que su carta fuera rechazada inicialmente. Para leer una copia de la carta en inglés y español, visita www.elcentralmedia.com.

"Veremos si nos conceden una reunión", dijo O'Brien. "Pero de una forma u otra, no nos quedaremos callados". El mensaje de la comunidad católica de Detroit fue claro: están acompañando a los inmigrantes con perseverancia, oración y propósito.

"Esto es solo el comienzo, estamos siempre en la lucha".

La procesión a ICE • Foto de Tom Tomala

Kaylee Razo es exalumna de la Escuela Cristo Rey de Detroit y estudiante de primer año de la Universidad de Harvard, donde planea especializarse en gobierno y economía. Es pasante de Strangers No Longer y mentora en la Michigan Youth Civil Rights Academy.

Este artículo y fotos fueron posibles gracias a una generosa subvención a EL CENTRAL Hispanic News por parte de Press Forward, el movimiento nacional que fortalece a las comunidades revitalizando las noticias locales. Para más información, visite www.pressforward.news.

Traducción Carmen Elena Luna

Catholics in Solidarity with Immigrants

Continued from page 1

your presence in all those we meet, but most especially the poor, the needy, the troubled, and the immigrant. We ask that you move the hearts of all the members of our great nation to return to our roots of genuine respect for the human rights of all, and the inherent dignity of all persons. May we once again lead the world through our example of compassion and welcome."

Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger was interviewed regarding the Procession • Photo by Tom Tomala

From St. Anne's Catholic Church, two immigrant Mexican women, Martha Diaz and Imelda Torres, shared what inspired them to participate. "We are contributing our grain of sand for all undocumented immigrants so that we can achieve something," said Torres. "There are many people who don't deserve to be kicked out of this country because they are humble, hardworking, and honest people. And that's why we are here."

Marianne Bernard, another participant, carried a sign that read "Education, Not Deportation." When asked what moved her to carry that message, she explained: "There are a lot of people being deported who are just here for an education. They're not here to be criminals. They're here for a dream. I would tell anyone who sees them as dangerous to educate themselves. The majority of immigrants are fleeing hardship or seeking opportunity, not causing harm."

Donna Salogar, Campus Minister at Shrine Catholic High School and Academy, emphasized the importance of civic engagement: "Younger people are the leaders. They can help change things. They have a voice and a right to be heard." She encouraged both adults and youth to get involved: "We need your voice, one way or another. Come to Circle of Support meetings, write your senators, reach out in your church."

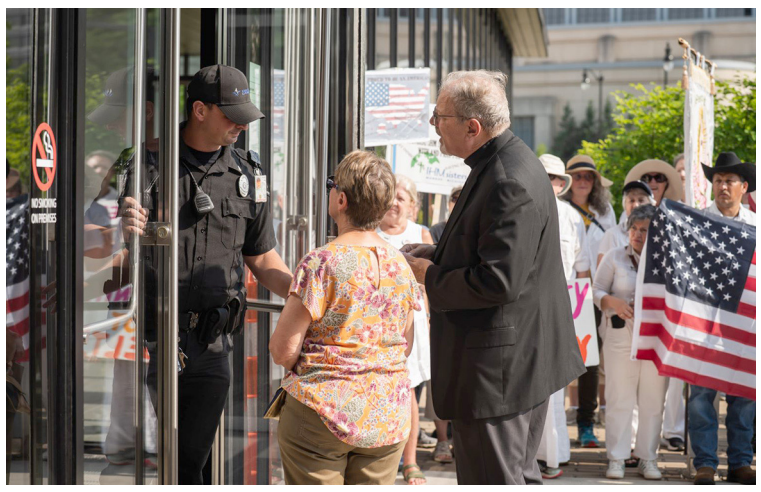
Chisomaga Nwoke, a student and leader in Stranger No Longer's Youth Council, connected the cause to her Catholic faith: "Jesus stood by immigrants, and it's our duty as his followers to stand up for those who are most marginalized."

George, another student, explained why he believed it was important for youth to be involved. "We have our whole lives to deal with the consequences of what this administration is doing. So it's up to us to try to stop it."

Monica Tay Bejej, Director of the Immigration Legal Clinic at Catholic Charities, underscored the Church's role in meeting both spiritual and material needs: "We try to fulfill the works of mercy the Church calls us to, helping the homeless, expectant mothers, immigrants, and anyone facing hardship."

She also acknowledged the complexity of the immigration debate. "We respect the rule of law and the need for safety, but we're concerned about the lack of due process and the inhumane actions we've been seeing. To any immigrant who feels scared right now, I would say: your fear is not unfounded. But know there are many who stand with you, pray for you, and hope for something better."

Gregg Krupa, a member of the Meta Peace Team and the Michigan Coalition on Human Rights, explained his frustration: "The actions being taken are un-American and ungodly. People who pay taxes and work hard are being ambushed without hearings. That's not the America we believe in."



Fr. David Buersmeyer y Mrs. Judith Brooks de Strangers No Longer / se les niega la entrada a la oficina de campo de ICE en Detroit / are denied entrance to the field office of ICE in Detroit. Foto de / Photo by Valaurian Waller | Detroit Catholic

Father David Buersmeyer, a longtime advocate and chaplain with *Strangers No Longer*, outlined what's next for the movement. "Starting in August, we'll hold weekly prayer vigils outside the Federal Building every Wednesday from 7:30 to 8 a.m. It's a time to listen, to pray, and to support. We also continue to expand Circles of Support in parishes and schools. These small groups help with accompaniment, education, advocacy, even just providing a ride or showing up in court to offer solidarity."

He encouraged immigrants and allies to connect locally. "You don't have to do it alone. If your parish doesn't have a Circle of Support, we can help you start one. The point is to meet people. Hear their stories. That's how we change hearts."

After the procession, *Strangers No Longer* Executive Director Bill O'Brien shared that Michigan Senator Gary Peters' office had reached out and requested a copy of the letter to deliver directly to ICE

continues on page 3

Love@Nite Unites Detroit and the Diaspora in a Night of Music, Art, and Cultural Fusion

By Amber Ogden | Photos by Heart of the City Photography

Spirit Plaza came alive last Thursday, July 10, during Love@Nite: CONTAINER Takeover, the official afterglow of the Global Citizen NOW: Detroit festival. Set against the heart of downtown, the event pulsed with color, movement, and sound, merging music, art, food, fashion, and storytelling into one immersive celebration of Detroit's creativity across the diaspora.

At the center of the evening was a powerful cultural activation led by music icon Wyclef Jean and Ayiti Spaghetti, a Haitian culinary and arts collective. Their presence marked a celebration not just of Haitian culture but also of its deep ties to other immigrant communities in Detroit, particularly the African diaspora, including the Middle Eastern, Mexican, and Latinx communities.

Kwaku Osei, Executive Director of The Love Building, has a history that is deeply rooted in Black culture and community connection leading up to this event.

"Detroit being close to 80% black population within this city, one of the largest in the country. We're [Love@ Night] just shining the spotlight on what already exists, and by shining that spotlight, [we're] supporting more folks to become aware of what's happening here in our beautiful and diverse city."

Culinary Chef Jermond Booze, the Advanced Program Lead at the Detroit Food Academy, served up food, including jerk chicken and mac and cheese for the soul, to ensure attendees could experience a part of the cultural diaspora.

"Food is one of the biggest storytellers," Booze said.

"When you think of France, you can literally think of the foods there. Food often equates to the character and the spirit of a city. That's what we did for the afterglow."

The Haitian and Mexican communities share more than proximity in Detroit. Historically, both cultures have resisted colonial forces, preserved indigenous and African traditions, and expressed their stories through vibrant music, spirituality, and communal foodways. Events like Love@Nite showcased this shared legacy through cumbia-infused DJ sets and fashion, reflecting Indigenous aesthetics.

Reflecting those aesthetics through fashion, Nabeela Najjar, who is of mixed race as a Black and Arab, draws inspiration from her life experiences, dreams, and nature.

"My biggest goal is making a name for myself in Detroit and helping the city become a fashion hub," Najjar said.

"I do storytelling through my work, incorporating stories that have affected my hometown and Detroit. Most of my designs are hand-dyed, using real tree bark, and I try to be as sustainable as possible."

Southwest Detroit, home to the city's largest Mexican population, has long been a cultural hub for Latinx identity and immigrant storytelling. Its residents have used murals, lowrider art, folkloric dance, and food as vehicles of expression, much like Haitian and African communities have preserved their narratives through Vodou-inspired art, kompa music, and communal cooking. That parallel created a natural harmony throughout the event.

Attendees at Love@Night

While Love@Nite has become a living archive of cultural resistance and joy. Detroit's neighborhoods, such as the Core City, where the Love Building is located at 4731 Grand River Ave., have become a meeting point for communities that were often segregated in different neighborhoods, united through a shared history of survival, creativity, and migration.

"Detroit is in the stage where it's not just a resurgence or Renaissance, events like this it's more of just the love for the city itself," Booze said.

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Amber Ogden is a freelance writer-born and raised in Detroit. She has published work in Forbes, Chevy in the D, Model D, and Rachel Ray Every Day. She enjoys art, culture, and eating her way through the city in her free time.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Nabeela Najjar Designs

Wyclef Jean at Global Citizen Now

continued from page 2

leadership, after their letter was initially turned down. *To read a copy of the letter in English and Spanish, visit www.elcentralmedia.com.*

"We'll see if we're granted a meeting," said O'Brien. "But one way or another, we will not be silent." The message from Detroit's Catholic community was clear: they are walking alongside immigrants with persistence, prayer, and purpose.

"This is just the beginning," O'Brien said. "We will keep showing up."

Kaylee Razo is an Alumna of Detroit Cristo Rey High School and an incoming freshman at Harvard University, where she plans to concentrate in government and economics. She is an intern with Strangers No Longer and a mentor at the Michigan Youth Civil Rights Academy.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Strangers No Longer

Mr. Kevin Raycraft, Field Office Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Detroit ERO
985 Michigan Ave. Suite 207
Detroit, MI 48226

July 14, 2025

Estimado Sr. Raycraft:

Nos comunicamos con usted para solicitarle una reunión, con el fin de abordar nuestras preocupaciones sobre las Operaciones de Deportación y Control de Aduanas de Detroit bajo su dirección. Representamos a la organización Strangers No Longer (SNL), una red estatal de Círculos de Apoyo en Michigan, formada por parroquias católicas, congregaciones, comunidades de inmigrantes y, más recientemente, en otras redes y congregaciones. Las familias inmigrantes son nuestros miembros y amigos.

Nuestras inquietudes incluyen:

- **El uso de máscaras y la falta de identificación de los agentes del ICE como agentes del orden durante las operaciones de inmigración**: para garantizar la seguridad tanto de los agentes como de las demás personas en el lugar de los hechos, es fundamental contar con una placa u otra identificación. El uso de máscaras está aumentando el miedo en todas las comunidades, tanto inmigrantes como no inmigrantes.
- **Acciones llevadas a cabo sin una orden judicial federal.**
- **Falta de comunicación con la fuerza del orden local, sobre una operación inminente en su jurisdicción:** en una docena de reuniones con jefes de policía locales y comandantes de comisaría, todos enfatizaron la importancia de que ICE se comunique con el Departamento de Policía local cuando se lleve a cabo un operativo, en vez de primero recibir la información por parte de ciudadanos desesperados.
- **El arresto de personas que no han cometido ningún delito grave**. ICE parece estar buscando hombres para encarcelarlos y deportarlos rápidamente, dejando a mujeres y niños (muchos de los cuales son ciudadanos estadounidenses) abandonados a su suerte. Este patrón de separación familiar está teniendo un impacto devastador en quienes se quedan atrás.

La Procesión Solemne de hoy fue encabezada por clérigos católicos, religiosas y líderes de nuestras 25 parroquias en el área metropolitana de Detroit; personas de profunda fe que creen firmemente en la dignidad humana para todos y en el llamado del Evangelio a "Acoger al Extranjero". Nos acompañan hoy personas de diversas tradiciones religiosas de toda la región.

Agradecemos su oportuna atención a esta solicitud. Por favor, contacte a nuestro director ejecutivo, Bill O'Brien, en obrien.b@strangersnolonger.org para programar nuestra reunión en persona. Gracias, y esperamos tener la oportunidad de reunirnos en las próximas semanas.

Atentamente,

Sra. Judith Brooks, Presidenta de la Junta Directiva de SNL. Padre David Buersmeyer, Capellán de SNL.

Strangers No Longer

Mr. Kevin Raycraft, Field Office Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Detroit ERO
985 Michigan Ave. Suite 207
Detroit, MI 48226

July 14, 2025

Dear Mr. Raycraft:

We are reaching out to request a meeting with you to discuss our concerns about the Detroit Enforcement and Removal Operations under your direction. We represent an organization called Strangers No Longer (SNL), a statewide network in Michigan of Circles of Support, formed in Catholic parishes, congregations, immigrant communities and most recently in other networks and congregations. Immigrant families are our members and friends.

Our concerns include:

- **The facemasks and the lack of identification of ICE agents as law enforcement during immigration actions** —To ensure the safety of both officers and others on the scene, a badge or other identification is critical. The facemasks are ramping up fear in all communities, immigrant and non-immigrant.
- **Actions carried out without a federal warrant.**
- **No communication with local law enforcement about an impending operation in their jurisdiction –** In a dozen meetings with local police chiefs and precinct commanders, all of them emphasized the importance of I.C.E. communicating with the local Police Department when an operation is in effect, and not hearing it first from frantic citizens.
- **The arrest of individuals who have committed no felony.** I.C.E. appears to be targeting men for incarceration and expedited removal **leaving women and children (many of whom are U.S. citizens) behind to "fend for themselves."** This pattern of separating families is having a devastating impact on those left behind.

Today's Solemn Procession was led by Catholic clergy and women religious, and leaders from our 25 parishes across Metro Detroit---people of deep faith who firmly believe in human dignity for all and the gospel call to "Welcome the Stranger." And we are joined today by people of many faith traditions across the region.

We appreciate your timely attention to this request. Please contact our Executive Director, Bill O'Brien at obrien.b@strangersnolonger.org) to schedule our in-person meeting.

Thank you, and we look forward to the opportunity to meet in the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Judith Brooks, SNL Board President Fr. David Buersmeyer, SNL Chaplain

Concert of Colors

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Alongside the music, Concert of Colors 2025 expands its programming with a major focus on family activities, including a larger children's tent, global craft vendors, and more robust opportunities for attendees to learn about and engage with nonprofit causes.

"We've brought back the information booths for organizations doing important work," Ahmed said. "People want to connect. This is a space to do that while enjoying incredible music."

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To donate, volunteer, or learn more about the full lineup, visit www.concertofcolors.com. As always, admission is free, and everyone is welcome.

Martina Guzmán is an award-winning journalist and the director of the Race & Justice Reporting Initiative at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Data for Change: New Community-Driven Project Fights Truck Traffic and Air Pollution in Detroit

On July 1, 2025, a powerful new community-based initiative was launched to address diesel pollution in Detroit neighborhoods. The Trucks Off Our Street (TOOS) Dashboard empowers residents to track truck activity and monitor air quality in real-time to provide a data-backed platform for community members to advocate for safer streets and improved health.

The TOOS Dashboard is a collaboration between Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision (SDEV), the Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition (SDCBC), the citywide TOOS Table, the University of Michigan, and JustAir. Funded by the Fred and Barbara Erb Family Foundation, the project builds on the work of the TOOS Table as a coalition of grassroots organizations and residents from across Detroit working toward a healthier city by reducing diesel truck traffic in residential areas. The TOOS Dashboard helps equip communities with real-time data to advocate for policy change and embed public health priorities in city decision-making.

"Neighborhoods in Detroit have long been burdened by truck traffic and highways running through our communities," explained Raquel Garcia, Executive Director of SDEV. "This project started when Darren Riley, CEO of JustAir, and I were talking about how residents were using deer cameras to count trucks. It took weeks to process the data from the SD cards, and Darren chuckled, saying it was like writing on a stone tablet and that they could build an algorithm to count trucks automatically. That's a game changer for communities dealing with high emissions and excessive truck traffic."

The project uses novel monitoring systems developed by JustAir to monitor freight traffic and air pollution. Rather than rely on deer cameras or volunteers to count trucks by hand, JustAir has designed a technology tool that utilizes computer vision to count trucks and capture spikes in air pollution as diesel vehicles pass. The system is currently a prototype and is being deployed with TOOS Table partners via short-term studies at high truck traffic locations across the city. For each study, truck count and air quality data are collected continuously, and the TOOS Dashboard allows partners to generate reports. Each installation lasts about two weeks and produces localized data that can inform everything from neighborhood-level organizing to citywide policy proposals, including the upcoming Truck Routes Ordinance.

"We're really excited to have built this prototype in collaboration with local partners," said Sarah Craft, Chief Operating Officer at JustAir. "We'll continue to improve the system as we learn more with each partner study, and we're hopeful that community leaders and stakeholders will be able to use the data to create change." TOOS hopes that the insights gathered from these studies will support Detroit communities in advocating for truck routes and infrastructure decisions that prioritize neighborhood health and environmental justice. Further, as the Truck Routes Ordinance advances in the coming year, this data will play a critical role in determining how and where truck traffic should be limited.

"This marks a major step forward in the fight for safer streets and cleaner air because everyone in Detroit deserves access to this kind of baseline information," said Juliett Knight, Project Coordinator for SDEV.

Through at least the rest of the year, SDEV will continue to work with the TOOS table and other community partners to identify suitable locations for other short-term, pilot studies. To express interest in this project and receive future updates, please fill out this Google Form: https://bit.ly/TOOS-Survey. TOOS will also launch a public website to feature data from the Dashboard and provide early insights into truck traffic trends across Detroit.

The TOOS Dashboard represents an exciting model for environmental action, one that puts tools in the hands of residents and centers community knowledge in shaping Detroit's future.

For more information, please visit: https://justair-20761021.hs-sites.com/toos.

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Candidatos del Distrito 6 hablan sobre inmigración y contaminación

Por Laurén Abdel-Razzaq. Republicado de BridgeDetroit con permiso.

La contaminación, las redadas de inmigración y la falta de viviendas accesibles fueron los temas que más preocuparon el jueves durante el evento Conoce a los Candidatos, organizado por BridgeDetroit. Ahí, los candidatos al Concejo Municipal del Distrito 6 platicaron con vecinas y vecinos de la comunidad.

Ya se sabe desde hace tiempo que la contaminación del aire, causada por fábricas y tantos camiones en la zona, afecta seriamente la salud de las personas que viven en el suroeste de Detroit.

Entre los lugares que más contaminan están la refinería Marathon, la planta de coque de EES (de DTE Energy), el tráfico de camiones del centro de carga de Detroit, y los más de 10 mil camiones que cruzan diario por el Puente Ambassador.

"Somos tal vez el código postal más estudiado del país. Pero ya estamos hartos de tantos estudios. Lo que queremos es acción", dijo el representante estatal Tyrone Carter, que representa a Ecorse, River Rouge y partes de Detroit. "Esto no es solo problema del suroeste. Esto ha afectado nuestras vidas. Hay gente que ha muerto por enfermedades como el cáncer."

Carter se enfrentará en las elecciones con la actual concejal del Distrito 6, Gabriela Santiago-Romero. También participó en el evento Anita Martin, quien se registró como candidata por escrito.

Santiago-Romero dijo estar orgullosa de haber trabajado con el Concejo para aprobar este año una regla que obliga a negocios como chatarrerías y plantas de cemento a controlar el polvo que sale al aire y que puede causar problemas respiratorios. Esta propuesta se venía trabajando desde 2022.

"Si ves polvo en tu calle o tu colonia, puedes llamar a nuestra oficina para reportar a esas empresas", dijo Santiago-Romero. "También estamos trabajando en una regla para que los camiones no pasen por colonias. Cuando se abra el nuevo puente, va a haber todavía más tráfico de camiones."

Detroit lleva años entre las ciudades con peor calidad del aire en el país. Esto se nota en enfermedades como el asma. El año pasado, la Fundación de Asma y Alergias de Estados Unidos dijo que Detroit es la tercera peor ciudad para personas con asma.

Un estudio de 2016 advirtió que la contaminación representa un riesgo especial para las niñas y niños del suroeste de Detroit, donde hay una mayor cantidad de menores que en otras zonas de la ciudad. Como sus cuerpos aún se están desarrollando, son más sensibles a los efectos de respirar aire sucio.

Además de la contaminación, muchas familias en el Distrito 6 se están viendo afectadas por la gentrificación. En el evento, realizado en el Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, vecinos preguntaron a los candidatos si apoyarían la vivienda accesible y cómo lo harían.

"Ahora que esta zona se está poniendo 'de moda', muchos de nosotros estamos siendo desplazados. Nos están sacando de nuestros barrios", dijo Santiago-Romero. "Tenemos que asegurarnos de poder seguir viviendo aquí."

Martin criticó que se use el "Ingreso Medio del Área" (AMI, por sus siglas en inglés) para decidir qué es vivienda accesible, ya que ese cálculo se hace tomando en cuenta a toda el área metropolitana de Detroit, lo cual no refleja los ingresos reales de quienes viven dentro de la ciudad.

"Uno no solo paga la renta. También hay gastos básicos, como comida, transporte y medicinas, que deben tomarse en cuenta", dijo Martin.

Entre sus propuestas está usar los terrenos baldíos para construir casas pequeñas y crear una "comunidad dentro de la comunidad". También dijo que prefería traer de regreso casas para familias en lugar de convertir los barrios en granjas de paneles solares.

Detroit tiene planes para instalar paneles solares en cinco colonias. Las autoridades dicen que las y los vecinos han estado involucrados en el diseño de esas áreas.

Pero Carter piensa distinto: "Ya me cansé de ver casitas pequeñas y casas hechas con contenedores… Si queremos que las familias se queden, hay que construir casas que puedan pagar las personas que ganan $20 la hora."

El tema de la inmigración también fue muy importante para los asistentes. Carter recordó que el suroeste de Detroit tiene mucha población hispana y también muchas personas que hablan árabe. Por eso, dijo que es fundamental que toda la gente tenga acceso a información clara.

"Queremos que la gente entienda bien su situación migratoria. Todas las personas aquí merecen ser tratadas con respeto", dijo. "Yo fui policía del condado de Wayne. No vamos a usar dinero de la ciudad para hacer el trabajo del gobierno federal."

La Policía de Detroit tiene una política que dice que no deben ayudar a ICE ni a la Patrulla Fronteriza con deportaciones. Pero sí pueden ir si les piden apoyo para controlar grupos de gente. Esto se vio el lunes, cuando policías arrestaron a dos personas y usaron gas pimienta contra manifestantes que intentaban evitar que ICE se llevara a un hombre supuestamente indocumentado.

Santiago-Romero ha sido defensora de la comunidad inmigrante incluso antes de llegar al Concejo. Dice que mucho de su trabajo nace de su propia experiencia como inmigrante.

Contó que el Concejo ya tiene reglas que explican cómo deben actuar los policías locales frente a los agentes federales, y que los oficiales no tienen permitido preguntar por el estatus migratorio de nadie. También está promoviendo nuevas medidas.

Una de ellas es conseguir una empresa independiente que se encargue del programa de identificaciones municipales de Detroit. Estas identificaciones permiten que cualquier persona, sin importar su estatus migratorio, pueda solicitar ayuda o servicios del gobierno local.

"Ahora que la administración de Trump anda pidiendo información, no tenemos nada que darles", dijo.

Carter también mencionó un intento a nivel estatal para que personas sin papeles puedan sacar una licencia de conducir en Michigan. Ese esfuerzo lleva desde 2008, pero no ha logrado avanzar.

"A veces perder es una bendición", dijo Carter. "¿Te imaginas si el estado tuviera una base de datos con todos los inmigrantes indocumentados?"

Santiago-Romero terminó con un llamado a apoyarse entre vecinos:

"Hay que practicar el cuidado entre todos. Si sabes que una vecina es indocumentada y tiene hijos, ofrécele llevarlos a la escuela", dijo. "Si conoces a una persona mayor que necesita ir al doctor o recoger medicina, échale la mano."

El representante estatal Tyrone Carter, a la izquierda, la actual concejal Gabriela Santiago-Romero y la candidata por escrito Anita Martin hablan durante un panel de BridgeDetroit para "Conozca a los Candidatos" el jueves 26 de junio de 2025. Crédito: Laurén Abdel-Razzaq, BridgeDetroit.

El representante estatal Tyrone Carter, a la derecha, la actual concejal Gabriela Santiago-Romero y la candidata por escrito Anita Martin hablan durante un panel de BridgeDetroit para "Conozca a los Candidatos" el jueves 26 de junio de 2025. Crédito: Laurén Abdel-Razzaq, BridgeDetroit.

El representante estatal Tyrone Carter, a la izquierda, y la actual concejal Gabriela Santiago-Romero hablan durante un panel de BridgeDetroit para "Conozca a los Candidatos" el jueves 26 de junio de 2025. Crédito: Bryce Huffman, BridgeDetroit.

Los reporteros de BridgeDetroit, Micah Walker, a la izquierda, y Malachi Barrett, sirven comida a los asistentes al evento "Conozca a los Candidatos del Distrito 6" en la Corporación de Desarrollo Hispano de Detroit, en el suroeste de Detroit, el 26 de junio de 2025. Crédito: Laurén Abdel-Razzaq, BridgeDetroit.

Eva Garza Dewaelsche Elected Chair, Detroit Board of Police Commissioners

On July 3, 2025, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners elected and swore in new officers for the fiscal year as required by the City Charter. From now through June 30, 2026, Police Commissioner Eva Garza Dewaelsche will serve as Chair of the Board.

Chair Garza Dewaelsche already was serving a historic third time as Police Commissioner and had held leadership roles when the Board had five members and after the 2012 Charter expanded it to 11 members. She served as Vice Chair in 2001 and Chair in 2002 during her appointment by Mayor Dennis Archer. She is in her second appointment by Mayor Duggan and served as Board Vice Chair from 2017-18.

Eva Garza Dewaelsche is the president and CEO of SER Metro-Detroit Jobs for Progress and is the owner and publisher of EL CENTRAL Hispanic News.

For the following year, the former chair, Police Commissioner Darryl Woods will serve as Vice Chair.

Under the 2012 City Charter, seven Police Commissioners are elected by district and the mayor appoints four with City Council approval. There is currently one appointed vacancy.

Here is a list of the current 10 Police Commissioners by District and At-Large:

- **Tamara Liberty Smith, District 1**
- **Linda D. Bernard, District 2**
- **Cedric Banks, District 3**
- **Willie E. Bell, District 4**
- **Willie E. Burton, District 5**
- **Lisa Carter, District 6**
- **Ricardo Moore, District 7**
- **Eva Garza Dewaelsche, At Large**
- **QuanTez Pressley, At Large**
- **Darryl Woods, At Large**
- **Vacancy, At Large**

Created by the 1974 City Charter, the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners has supervisory authority and oversight over the Police Department. The Board of Police Commissioners meets weekly on Thursday at 3 p.m. at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters except for the second Thursday when the BOPC holds a monthly community meeting at 6:30 p.m. at various locations. For the Board meeting schedule, video, minutes, and other information, visit the website at detroitmi.gov/bopc.

Pictured from left at the swearing in ceremony, Detroit Corporate Counsel Conrad Mallett, Commission Chair Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Commission Vice Chair Darryl Woods and Judge Sean Perkins.

Newly-elected Commission Chair Eva Garza Dewaelsche, in red jacket, with supporters from left, Elena Herrada, Belda Garza, Detroit Corporate Counsel Conrad Mallett, Jane C Garcia and Lydia Gutierrez.

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Senate Theater Says ‘No Problem’ to No AC with ‘Hot, Sweaty & Weird’ Film Series

By Michael D. Gutierrez

When most venues might struggle with the summer heat in a nearly 100-year-old building without air conditioning, The Senate Theater on Michigan Avenue and Livernois will turn its sweltering interior into a defining feature. The venue recently launched another “Hot, Sweaty and Weird” series, a summer-long celebration of B-movies, cult classics, and community that’s built around the simple premise that discomfort can be part of the experience.

This Saturday, July 19th, at 8pm, the series will kick off with a “Terror de Mexico” double feature that showcases two Mexican horror films from the 1960s back-to-back – “100 Cries of Terror” which is an anthology of supernatural tales, and “The Curse of the Doll People,” which delivers scares when creepy dolls come to life. Both films are dubbed in English and will screen on actual 16-millimeter film thanks to Back Alley Cinema.

On July 26th, audiences can watch Alejandro Jodorowsky’s trippy cult classic “The Holy Mountain,” and the series will wrap up with its grand finale on August 9th with a free outdoor screening of “Las Momias de Guanajuato,” where the legendary luchador El Santo battles mummies in all his masked glory.

Nicholas Baldwin, who handles film programming and social media for the theater, remembers how the whole thing started. “Every time we had regular screenings in the summer, the audience was miserable,” he recalled. “They were expecting to come into air conditioning and get relaxed, and they weren’t getting any of that. We had to think of something else—how can we be transparent about the fact that it’s not going to be the most comfortable experience, but we can still enjoy something different?”

So they decided to stop fighting the heat and start celebrating it. “Hot, Sweaty and Weird” became a summer tradition in 2018 and continues to program genre films that lend itself to the, well, weirdness of its namesake. “The idea is that you come and you sit in the theater, and you get hot and sweaty, and you watch a B movie,” Baldwin explained. “You watch a weird movie, some sort of culty, classy movie that lends to the sweatiness, the weirdness, the hotness of it.”

The Senate chose these films with Southwest Detroit in mind. The theater usually programs one Spanish-language film per year, but Summer 2025 will showcase three Mexican titles. “The conversation at the theater and within the movie committee is often to further cater to our neighborhood, to try to bring to our neighborhood things that our neighbors would want to see,” Baldwin explained.

In dozens of B-movies throughout the 1960s and 70s, famed Mexican luchador El Santo (Rodolfo Guzmán Huerta) became a folk hero fighting supernatural threats (when he wasn’t body-slamming opponents in the ring).

“El Santo was so popular that they put him in movies where he’s a wrestling superhero fighting supernatural elements,” Baldwin explained. “There are dozens of these Santos versus different things—very silly B movies.” To build on last summer’s El Santo success, the theater decided to make it a tradition.

The partnership with Back Alley Cinema, a nonprofit organization that maintains an archive of 16-millimeter prints and presents them throughout Metro Detroit, shows how far the local film exhibition community will go to share these movies with audiences, especially since “Back Alley Cinema will only have those prints for some special period of time, and then they’ll have to send them back wherever they came from,” Baldwin noted.

The “Coney Lot” will host the series finale with a free outdoor screening of “Las Momias de Guanajuato,” a 1972 film featuring El Santo and Blue Demon fighting mummified remains from Guanajuato, Mexico. The gated “Coney Lot” once housed the Senate Coney Island before its destruction in a 1990 fire. Baldwin commissioned a mural during the pandemic on the theater’s west-facing wall that resembles a movie screen, adorned with billowing red curtains.

Like so many at The Senate, Baldwin found his way to the theater and stayed. He started volunteering in 2018 and has managed to keep his theater commitments going the entire time. “Everything everyone does at The Senate is volunteer-based,” Baldwin emphasized, which allows The Senate to take risks that most commercial theaters would usually avoid.

The theater operates through the Detroit Theater Organ Society (DTOS), an all-volunteer non-profit organization founded in 1989. The Senate continues DTOS’ mission “to preserve the art of theater pipe organ music by maintaining and showcasing the Mighty Wurlitzer at concerts, film screenings and events hosted at the theater”. However, The Senate has expanded far beyond its original organ-focused programming to embrace the needs of the community, including 2025’s iteration of the “Southwest Fest” music and art festival on August 23rd.

“When you go to the theater alone and see this weird movie, you’re not able to share in laughs with anyone else, or share in the horror with anyone else,” Baldwin reflected. “That’s not nearly as impactful as being able to share those heightened emotions with as many people as possible.” Those sweaty summer moments reveal what Baldwin calls a fundamental truth: “We are all humanistically connected in that way. We have no differences in that moment. We are there in the theater, and we all share in the joy or the terror or the laughter, and all differences are set aside.”

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Detroit Theater Organ Society
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1hr 21min I NR
16MM PRINT, DUBBED IN ENGLISH
JULY 19
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THE HOLY MOUNTAIN
1hr 54min I Digital
(1973) I R I $6
JULY 26
Saturday 8PM
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1hr 30min I Digital
(1972) I R I Free Outdoor Screening!
AUGUST 9
Saturday 9PM
Presented with support from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts

The Senate Theater’s “Hot, Sweaty, and Weird” series continues through August, with upcoming screenings July 19th (Terror de Mexico double feature, 8pm, $6), July 26th (The Holy Mountain, 8pm, $6), and August 9th (Las Momias de Guanajuato, 9pm, free outdoor screening). The theater is located at 6424 Michigan Avenue. For more information, visit senatetheater.com.

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Michael D. Gutierrez is the Digital Content Manager for EL CENTRAL Hispanic News. He is a screenwriter and filmmaker with a decade of experience in the television and film industry, contributing to projects including THE HOLDOVERS and LETHAL WEAPON on Fox. He is an active member of the Writers Guild of America-West and its Latino Writers Committee.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

El Zocalo Lounge Brings Back Nightlife to Mexicantown

Story and photo by Michael D. Gutierrez

The chandeliers have been dusted, the sound system tested, and the VIP booths are waiting. Come tomorrow, Friday, July 18th, the venue space on the second floor of the building formerly occupied by El Zocalo restaurant will open its doors for the first time in years as “El Zocalo Lounge,” bringing a 410-person capacity venue back to life above Taqueria El Rey on the corner of Bagley and 23rd.

Climb one of the three different staircases leading to the second floor and you’ll find a vast space for dancing and lounging, with comfortable padded booths and circular VIP booths lining the perimeter of the dance floor, and a sprawling rectangular bar made of black wood that offers service to patrons while they’re busting a move (or just lingering nearby), or catching their breath in the lounge area opposite the dedicated dance space. A professional sound and lighting system had already been expertly installed but has been dormant since El Zocalo closed in 2016 after more than thirty years.

“People don’t realize that there’s a whole beautiful lounge up there,” said Robert Garcia, who will manage the newly opened space. “I’m talking about VIP booths, beautiful floors, sound system, light system. I mean, it’s ready to go. Like, turnkey.”

Garcia spent four years working at the original El Zocalo restaurant early in life. After the tragic passing of his father when Garcia was a child, the restaurant’s owner, Victor Cordoba, became the closest thing to a father figure he knew.

“He would talk to me, and he would tell me, ‘Robert, don’t do this. Robert, don’t do that. Yeah, you should do this,’” Garcia recalled. “Like a father figure. And so now that he’s passed away, I feel that his spirit is calling me back to where it all started.”

The building was purchased for $1.2 million in August of 2018 by Dennis Kefallinos, according to the Detroit News. Taqueria El Rey completed a lease and moved into the first floor in October 2024 after losing their previous location to fire. The Fuentes family, led by Eliseo “Chico” Fuentes and his wife Irma, spent over two years operating as a chef’s residency at Batch Brewing Company in Corktown, serving their char-grilled chicken and ribs every Monday and Tuesday with hopes to eventually return to Mexicantown.

Behind that family resilience is Danny Fuentes, the restaurant’s general manager. He had completed automotive repair and diesel industrial training in Houston in 2014, then worked as a maintenance mechanic at an industrial laundry facility for five years. His father started having heart trouble, and for Fuentes, there was really only one choice.

“To me it wasn’t hard to leave my job at the time because my parents and my family had done so much for me,” Fuentes explained. “When it was my turn to jump back in and help them with the family business, I did it without hesitation because it meant so much to me to be able to lend a hand to my parents who had always supported us. Whether it was with school, sports or just life in general, they always had our backs.”

The restaurant operates as a true family enterprise. Fuentes, the second oldest of four siblings, works alongside his older brother

Pictured from left, Danny Fuentes, General Manager, Irma and Eliseo “Chico” Fuentes

Eliseo Jr. “Cheo,” younger brother Sami, and sister Melissa, plus several cousins and aunts. Their father remains deeply involved but prefers to work in the kitchen doing quality control on the food and recipes that built Taqueria El Rey’s reputation.

When Fuentes brought up the idea of doing something with the empty upstairs space, Garcia recognized the potential. The two had connected about two months earlier when Garcia stopped by as a sales representative for Resist Spirits to talk about their “For Kings and Not Gods” vodka and bourbon line.

“We started talking about getting the nightclub space open again like it once was to help boost our revenue overall with new cocktails, and bring back some nightlife to the Mexicantown corridor,” Fuentes recalled. The vision extends beyond nightclub events to “offering not just a nightclub experience but a space for all types of events such as birthday parties, graduations, bachelorette parties, baby showers and corporate luncheons, as well.”

The restaurant already hosts events on its patio between the brick-and-mortar building

cont on pg.12

Connecting With The Heart Of Detroit

Programming At Ralph Wilson Park

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy • Reprinted with permission

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park is just months away from opening this October, and over the past year, the programming team at the Conservancy has been hard at work planning for this space to become a vibrant hub for community connection, recreation, and discovery. From peaceful moments in nature to active play and immersive educational experiences, the park is designed to inspire a deep connection to the outdoors and to Detroit's rich cultural heritage.

Four interpretive themes have been identified that will help guide programming throughout the park, giving visitors a wide variety of ways to engage in this new dynamic public space. The themes were developed through a thoughtful process of community engagement, including over 1,800 surveys collected, multiple public meetings, and events aimed at capturing the voices and visions of Detroiters. The Conservancy is also partnering with Huron-Clinton Metroparks to develop enriching educational opportunities including field trips and science-based programming at the Water Garden.

Power of the Outdoors

This theme highlights the park's role in inspiring people to connect with nature. Visitors will find opportunities for peaceful reflection and outdoor learning, from group meditation and yoga classes to birdwatching and nature-themed art sessions. Passive features such as the nature walk around the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Water Garden and tree-lined promenades throughout the park will invite moments of quiet observation and connection with the natural world.

Four Seasons of Play

The park's diverse landscape, including play gardens, sports courts, and hills will offer four seasons of active play for all ages.

Programming will be developed to engage with visitors both young and old, encouraging carefree outdoor play, activities to inspire creative movement as well as classic exercise and sporting opportunities. Passive features like the Bernstein Bear Slide and William Davidson Sport House will ensure that the park remains lively and engaging throughout the year.

Connecting with the Environment

With a focus on environmental stewardship, this theme encourages visitors to learn about their impact on the planet. Nature-themed field trips for students throughout the community, environmental stewardship career development and many volunteer opportunities will promote hands-on engagement. Interpretive signage on topics like local ecosystems and environmental restoration will foster a deeper understanding of our natural surroundings.

Lessons from the River and Land

Detroit's history is deeply intertwined with the land and water that define its landscape. Ralph Wilson Park will reflect this heritage with programming like cultural events and gatherings, informative walking tours, elder storytelling sessions, and educational field trips. Historical markers and interpretive signage will bring these stories to life, connecting the past with the present.

Partners In Programming Building Community Along The Riverfront

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy's programming is a testament to the power of partnership. Year after year, the Conservancy collaborates with a dynamic network of organizations from across Detroit to offer a rich variety of free programs designed to serve the entire community. These partners help make the riverfront more than just a destination—they make it a vibrant gathering place where Detroiters can move, learn, connect, and thrive.

Health and wellness take center stage throughout the year. Thanks to partners like Urban Solace, yoga sessions offer peaceful moments of mindfulness along the water's edge. The energy picks up with Vámonos, whose lively Zumba classes invite participants to dance their way to better health. Two Left Feet Hustle keeps the beat going with weekly hustle during Riverwalkers that bring joy and community to the Riverwalk. And for those craving something more adventurous, Motown Roller Club delivers nostalgic fun with community roller- skating events at Valade Park all summer long.

The riverfront also serves as a runner's haven, with groups like We Run 313 hosting regular runs and meetups along the Riverwalk and greenways. These events foster not just fitness, but also a deep sense of connection and camaraderie.

Beyond physical wellness, collaborations with groups like We Shall Read and the Wise Guys Chess Club make the riverfront a place that minds can grow through reading, critical thinking, and meaningful play. Just this year, a new partnership with the Girl Scouts of Southeast Michigan has launched The Healing in Nature Patch, offering girls the chance to explore the link between mental health and the natural world through activities like sensory meditations, yoga poses, tree tag, affirmations, and more.

Many of these partnerships have been in place for years, and the programs they support continue to evolve in response to the community's feedback and changing needs. DetroitRiverfront.org/

Tony Harrison Signed To Shields Card At LCA

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

All photos by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL, unless noted otherwise. Shields vs. Daniels flyers by Salita Promotions

Former WBC World Champion Tony Harrison has been signed to the Shields vs. Daniels card at the Little Caesars Arena, on July 26th.

Tony Harrison (29-4-1, with 21 KOs) owner of SuperBad Boxing Gym.

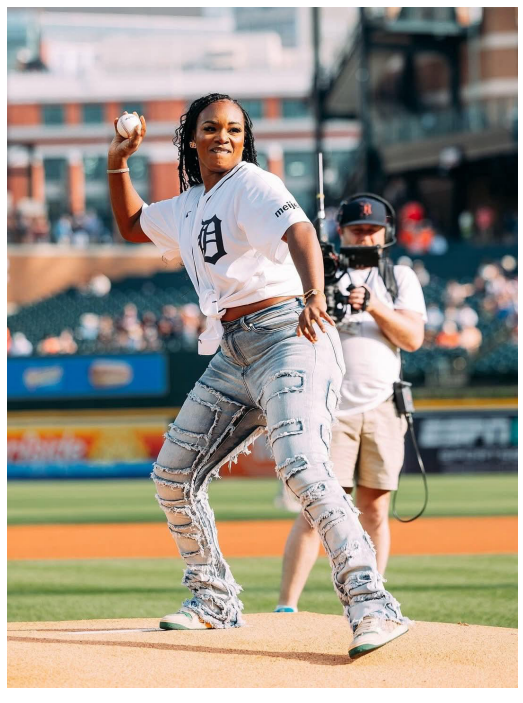
Harrison will make his return to the ring at middleweight on July 26 against Edward Diaz as the co-feature of Claressa Shields-Lani Daniels at the Little Caesars Arena in Detroit.

The GWOAT, Claressa Shields will return home on Saturday, July 26, when she puts her Undisputed Heavyweight World Championship on the line in the main event at Detroit's premier sports arena Little Caesars Arena against the reigning IBF Light Heavyweight World Champion from New Zealand, Lani Daniels (11-2-2, 1 KO).

Photos below are highlights from the upcoming Shields vs. Daniels fight at the Little Caesars Areana on July 26th.

Tony Harrison trains during media workout announcing, Harrison being signed to the Shields vs. Daniels event at the LCA, at SuperBad Gym, this past Tuesday. Tony Harrisons trainer is his big brother L. J. Harrison.

Pictured below Salita Promotions owner Dmitry Salita, watches Tony Harrison train after signing Tony to the Shields vs. Daniels event



Claressa Shields will take on Lani Daniels for the Undisputed Heavyweight World Championship on July 26th at the LCA.

Claressa Shields threw out the first pitch during a Detroit Tigers game last month. Photo on right Claressa Shields holds her belts with Detroit Tigers mascot PAWS and Tiger player after first pitch. First pitch photos provided by Detroit Tigers

Shields vs. Daniels event will be televised on DAZN

For tickets, please visit; https://www.ticketmaster.com/claressa-shields-vs-lani-daniels-detroit-michigan-07-26-2025/event/080062A5B6CE1967

Slow Start Dooms Detroit City

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Over 6,500 fans filed into Keyworth Stadium last Saturday for DCFC's first of three straight at home. They took their time at the food trucks and merchandise store. The team reciprocated with an equally lackadaisical beginning. Missing three starters and having to fill the team sheet with two players from Detroit City II, coach Danny Dichio is running out of ideas and resources.

After losing to the worst team in the Western Conference, Le Rouge had hoped to rebound against the worst team in the Eastern Conference. They had edged past Hartford in a Jagermeister Cup game two weeks earlier, so DCFC would have expected to pick up three points at home. That plan went up in smoke after five minutes when Jonathan Jimenez pounced on a loose ball in the penalty area and fired past Carlos Saldana. All five defenders looked at each other wondering who was responsible.

With the home supporters barely into their second song, DCFC had to fight an uphill battle against a team determined to slow the game down at every opportunity. Every Hartford player delayed a throw-in, free kick, corner kick, or goal kick. Goalkeeper Antony Siaha drew the ire of the City faithful, but didn't receive his well-earned yellow card until the 80th minute. The visitors then applied a crushing blow before the midway point of the first half when Michee Ngalina picked out Mamadou Dieng unmarked at the far post. Dieng easily headed the ball past Saldana to double the lead.

Dichio responded by sending midfielder Jeciel Cedeno to warm up. He jogged by himself or with other subs the remainder of the half, but no change came. DCFC's midfield struggled to connect passes and penetrate an organized defense. Cedeno's ability to work in tight spaces might have been a better option than Haruki Yamazaki. Yamazaki wasn't up to the physical challenges in midfield and misplaced numerous passes. Abdoulaye Diop played in Cedeno's usual spot close to striker Darrin Smith, but made little impact.

Smith cut a frustrated figure much of the match. He isn't a big center forward who will battle the large center backs in the Championship. He likes to move into spaces between defenders and look for through balls. He frequently waved his arms in exasperation over service that didn't arrive. Dichio finally pulled him after seventy-three minutes. By that time, Smith had made one superb play to set up DCFC's only goal. He broke away with Ates Diouf after the defenders cleared a dangerous throw-in. Diouf played Smith in, but Siaha closed the angle quickly. Smith backheeled the ball, giving Diouf an open goal to cut Hartford's lead to 2-1 before halftime.

DCFC battled against Hartford's delaying tactics for the entire second half, but mustered few dangerous opportunities going forward. The highlight of the second half came when Carlos Saldana saved a penalty kick from Michee Ngalina. That brought the crowd alive briefly. Cedeno and Connor Rutz came on to boost the attack, but the absence of forward Ben Morris will haunt this goal-starved team the rest of the season.

The back three clearly misses captain Stephen Carroll, who is not due back until the end of August at the earliest. Devon Amoo-Mensah, Shane Wiedt, and Michael Bryant made a big contribution to DCFC's 69% possession, but most of that was passing among themselves without any penetration. Hard-working Matt Sheldon started at the right wing back spot, but doesn't have the pace of the injured Rhys Williams to trouble many defenders. Left wing back Alex Villanueva has had decreasing effectiveness in attack and is frequently out of position in defense.

Dichio is married to playing the ball out of the back slowly. The slow buildup invites pressure. Hartford started three speedy forwards who forced turnovers and errant passes. City's lack of team speed stands out against high-pressing teams. They just aren't quick enough making decisions and moving the ball. The midfield couldn't receive the ball from the defenders, turn, and progress the ball into attack with any regularity.

Detroit City had the edge in many statistical categories against Hartford, but never looked like winning. They led in possession, duels success in the air and on the ground, corner kicks, passing accuracy, and several more. They just didn't force Siaha into many difficult saves.

Losing to two of the worst teams in the Championship back-to-back makes Friday night's nationally televised home game against the Pittsburgh Riverhounds (ESPN2 7:30pmn) a desperate affair. Pittsburgh has jumped over DCFC in the standings as City has fallen to seventh in the Eastern Conference. The team still only has one league win since the end of April. Whether it's a formation change, selection change, or even more radically a coaching change, something has to happen to stop the rot.

Detroit Tigers Represented Well At MLB All Star Game

The Detroit Tigers were well represented at the MLB All Star Game, this past Tuesday.

The six Tigers who went to the All Star Game were:

- Javier Báez (OF)
- Riley Greene (OF)
- Zach McKinstry (INF)
- Casey Mize (P)
- Tarik Skubal (P)
- Gleyber Torres (2B)

The All Star Game took place at Truist Park in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Detroit Tigers ball boy Frankie Boyd, was also selected to participate in the All Star Game.

This is the first time they had 6 players go to the All Star Game, since 2013.

Photo and flyer provided by Detroit Tigers

(L-R) Zach McKinstry (INF), Riley Greene (OF), Tarik Skubal (P), Christopher Ilitch (Detroit Tigers Owner, Chairman and CEO), Gleyber Torres (2B), Casey Mize (P, missing from All Star flyer), Javier Báez (OF) getting ready to board Christopher Ilitch's private jet to head to Georgia for the All Star Game

El Zocalo Lounge Brings Back Nightlife to Mexicantown

Con't from pg. 7

and La Michoacana tortilleria, like the "Brawl on Bagley" wrestling event held on June 8th in partnership with International Bigtime Wrestling (IBW), so expanding into the upstairs venue was a natural next step for the family business.

Garcia's business background in sales and engineering shows in his approach to the venue. The opening event costs nothing to attend. A cash bar will feature custom drinks from the local Latino-owned spirits company where Garcia works. Happy hour will run from 9 to 11 PM with discounted cocktails designed by a professional mixologist. The party will continue until 2 AM.

Beyond the monthly branded "El Zocalo Lounge" events, Garcia pictures the space as a "one-stop shop" for community celebrations. DJ, security, bartenders, food—everything provided at what he calls "rock bottom price" to keep celebrations accessible to local families.

As the space becomes available for booking, "We're not even gonna charge for the venue. Basically, you come in, it's turnkey. We have a cash bar. All you got to do is show up."

That thinking about community shows in the opening night music. DJ Mic Love, who grew up with Garcia, will be playing a mix of norteño, salsa, merengue, bachata, reggaeton, and maybe even some Latin freestyle.

"He plays all types of music. He even takes requests," Garcia noted. But mainly, "You can expect some really, really good Latin music."

Garcia and Fuentes' strategy calls for one major event monthly while keeping the venue available for private bookings on weekends. If you're a local band or artist, Garcia is actively seeking performers who want to help build something new in the neighborhood.

"We want to promote and buy from local people, other establishments," Garcia said. "We want to use local artists, like the DJs… We want to promote and advertise and help brand these local guys, so people get them recognized."

The venue faces some practical challenges. There's no elevator to the second floor, which limits accessibility for wheelchair users, though Garcia says staff would assist people who need help getting upstairs. Eventually they want to offer a selection of food made in the kitchen that occupies part of the lounge space, but in the meantime, the first floor kitchen will remain open throughout most of the night. Though the space has been vacant for years, it hasn't required much restoration work to get it up to par for what people will experience come Friday: a beautiful space with strong community ties and management who gets the neighborhood and the business.

"I'm very excited to open the lounge as we hope to become one of the go-to spots for Latin music in Mexicantown and Southwest Detroit, working with local talent to bring the best experiences and all around good times as we venture into this new opportunity," expressed Fuentes.

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Michael D. Gutierrez is the Digital Content Manager for EL CENTRAL Hispanic News. He is a screenwriter and filmmaker with a decade of experience in the television and film industry, contributing to projects including THE HOLDOVERS and LETHAL WEAPON on Fox. He is an active member of the Writers Guild of America-West and its Latino Writers Committee.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

The 2025 Detroit election is pivotal, potentially marking a generational shift. This election occurs as the structure of the American government is poised for a fundamental shift away from providing many essential services.

To meet the challenge of this moment, Detroiters must vote and make informed decisions. CitizenDetroit, Politics On the Go, and ActivateDetroit have partnered to provide you with vital information about the candidates running for all the offices in the primary and general elections: Mayor, City Clerk, City Council, and Board of Police Commissioners.

It is imperative that the number of Detroiters who vote increases. Here's how to start:

Save the date: Thursday, July 31, 2025 for an At-Large City Council Dinner & Dialogue.

We want to hear about what is most important to you - choosing issues that are important to you. Your answers will form the questions that will be asked at the At-Large City Council Candidate Dinner and Dialogue, July 31st. For survey, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/mphjccf8

For further information, call (313) 334-3131,
or email info@citizendetroit.org.

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EL CENTRAL is a weekly publication. The deadline for articles and ads is noon, Monday prior to publication. The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Managing Editor.

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LULAC Hails Federal Court Victory Preserving Birthright Citizenship In The United States

Nation's Oldest and Largest Latino Civil Rights Organization Celebrates Ruling Defending Constitutional Rights for Future Generations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) celebrated a landmark decision by U.S. District Judge Joseph Laplante of New Hampshire, who issued a ruling blocking the Trump administration's executive order seeking to strip automatic birthright citizenship from children born in the United States to undocumented parents. This decision marks a crucial victory for members of LULAC, the first organization to file a lawsuit challenging the administration's attempt to undermine one of the most fundamental rights enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

"This ruling is a powerful affirmation that the rights granted under the 14th Amendment are not up for debate or political manipulation," said Roman Palomares, LULAC National President and Chairman of the Board. "From the very beginning, LULAC has been the voice standing between injustice and the rights of those born on American soil. We will never allow the constitutional promise of citizenship to be erased or rewritten."

Judge Laplante's decision grants nationwide class-action relief, ensuring that the executive order cannot be enforced against any U.S.-born children whose parents lack legal status.

"This is not just a legal battle—it is a moral one," added Palomares. "The greatness of America lies in its adherence to the principles of equality and justice. Birthright citizenship is a cornerstone of those values, and LULAC will continue to fight to uphold them in every court, every state, and every community."

LULAC, alongside legal advocacy organizations including Democracy Defenders Fund, the ACLU, and Make the Road New York, filed the first lawsuit defending birthright citizenship immediately following the issuance of an executive order attacking it on January 20, 2025, and successfully obtained a nationwide preliminary injunction barring enforcement of that executive order. The case challenged the administration's claim that children born on U.S. soil could be denied citizenship if neither parent was a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident. On June 27, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down nationwide injunctions, but explicitly permitted class action

lawsuits to obtain nationwide relief. Today's ruling, the first class-wide injunction barring the enforcement of President Trump's controversial executive order, ensures that this attempt to rewrite constitutional law is halted.

"We applaud today's decision as a triumph for the rule of law and the dignity of immigrant families across America," said Juan Proaño, LULAC Chief Executive Officer. "At its heart, this is about protecting children—innocent children—who deserve the same rights, protections, and opportunities as any other child born on American soil. LULAC will remain relentless in safeguarding these principles."

The Trump administration is expected to appeal the decision. Still, LULAC remains firmly committed to defending birthright citizenship and the constitutional rights of all people in the United States.

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About LULAC

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization. Founded in 1929, LULAC is committed to advancing the rights and opportunities of Latino Americans through advocacy, community building, and education. With a growing network of councils nationwide, LULAC remains steadfast in its mission to protect and empower millions of Latinos, contributing daily to America's prosperity. For more information about LULAC and its initiatives, please visit www.LULAC.org.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

LULAC celebra la victoria en la Corte Federal Que preserva la ciudadanía por nacimiento en Estados Unidos

La organización latina de derechos civiles más grande y antigua del país celebra un fallo que defiende los derechos constitucionales de las futuras generaciones

WASHINGTON, D.C. — La Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC) celebró una decisión histórica del juez federal de distrito Joseph Laplante, de New Hampshire, quien emitió un fallo que bloquea la orden ejecutiva de la administración Trump que buscaba despojar de la ciudadanía automática por nacimiento a los niños nacidos en Estados Unidos de padres indocumentados. Esta decisión representa una victoria crucial para los miembros de LULAC, la primera organización en presentar una demanda contra el intento de la administración de socavar uno de los derechos más fundamentales consagrados en la Constitución de Estados Unidos.

"Este fallo es una contundente afirmación de que los derechos otorgados por la Decimocuarta Enmienda no están sujetos a debate ni manipulación política", declaró Roman Palomares, presidente nacional de LULAC y presidente de la junta directiva. "Desde sus inicios, LULAC ha sido la voz que se interpone entre la injusticia y los derechos de quienes nacieron en suelo estadounidense. Nunca permitiremos que se anule o reescriba la promesa constitucional de la ciudadanía".

La decisión del juez Laplante otorga un amparo a nivel nacional para demandas colectivas, garantizando que la orden ejecutiva no pueda ejecutarse contra ningún niño nacido en Estados Unidos cuyos padres carezcan de estatus legal.

"Esta no es solo una batalla legal, sino moral", añadió Palomares. "La grandeza de Estados Unidos reside en su adhesión a los principios de igualdad y justicia. La ciudadanía por nacimiento es una piedra angular de esos valores, y LULAC seguirá luchando por defenderlos en todos los tribunales, estados y comunidades".

LULAC, junto con organizaciones de defensa legal como Democracy Defenders Fund, la ACLU y Make the Road New York, presentó la primera demanda en defensa de la ciudadanía por nacimiento inmediatamente después de la emisión de una orden ejecutiva que la atacaba el 20 de enero de 2025, y obtuvo con éxito una orden preliminar a nivel nacional que prohíbe la ejecución de dicha orden ejecutiva. El caso cuestionó la afirmación del gobierno de que a los niños nacidos en territorio estadounidense se les podía negar la ciudadanía si ninguno de los padres era ciudadano estadounidense o residente permanente legal. El 27 de junio de 2025, la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos anuló las órdenes judiciales a nivel nacional, pero autorizó explícitamente que las demandas colectivas obtuvieran un alivio a nivel nacional. El fallo de hoy, el primer mandato judicial colectivo que prohíbe la aplicación de la controvertida orden ejecutiva del presidente Trump, garantiza que se frene este intento de reescribir el derecho constitucional.

"Aplaudimos la decisión de hoy como un triunfo para el estado de derecho y la dignidad de las familias inmigrantes en todo Estados Unidos", declaró Juan Proaño, director ejecutivo de LULAC. "En esencia, se trata de proteger a los niños —niños inocentes— que merecen los mismos derechos, protecciones y oportunidades que cualquier otro niño nacido en suelo estadounidense. LULAC se mantendrá firme en la defensa de estos principios".

Se espera que la administración Trump apele la decisión. Aun así, LULAC mantiene su firme compromiso con la defensa de la ciudadanía por nacimiento y los derechos constitucionales de todas las personas en Estados Unidos.

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Acerca de LULAC

La Liga de Ciudadanos Latinoamericanos Unidos (LULAC) es la organización latina de derechos civiles más grande y antigua del país. Fundada en 1929, LULAC se compromete a promover los derechos y las oportunidades de los latinoamericanos mediante la defensa de sus derechos, el desarrollo comunitario y la educación. Con una creciente red de consejos en todo el país, LULAC se mantiene firme en su misión de proteger y empoderar a millones de latinos, contribuyendo diariamente a la prosperidad de Estados Unidos. Para más información sobre LULAC y sus iniciativas, visite www.LULAC.org.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

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Special World's Cultures

Jicarilla Apaches

Myth of the Emergence

In the beginning, he created the mountains, which grew taller and taller. The people who were to climb from below gathered around the mountain, watching everything being created. Then he created the reeds, and they too grew and grew toward the sky. While the people weren't looking, four girls climbed up and twisted the reeds. Then they climbed down without the others noticing, leaving the reeds like that.

The people saw that the reeds were no longer growing and tried to make them grow in vain. So they told someone, "Go on, go up and see what has happened." That person climbed the mountain and found the reeds twisted, but didn't see the girls. So he went down and told everyone, "The reeds are crooked."

The people then made four ladders: one black, one blue, one yellow, and one red. While they were doing this, a whirlwind passed by and rose to the upper world and observed everything that was happening. Upon returning, it reported that there was plenty of water there.

The person in charge told the beaver to go and see what was there, what the conditions were like in that place above the whirlwind had mentioned. So, the beaver went up to see what was happening in the upper world and found that, although there was plenty of water, it was receding, so the beaver began gathering piles of earth around it to hold it back. The beaver wouldn't come down because he was working so hard up above to keep the water from leaving.

The person in charge was surprised that it was taking so long and sent the badger to see what was happening, why he wasn't coming back. The badger went up to find the beaver and found him building dams to hold back the water. The badger asked him why he did that, and the beaver replied: "When the people and children feel like they're dying of thirst, they'll find water here and they can drink from it," the beaver said, explaining to the badger what he was doing. So, the badger went into the mud and left marks so they could find the dam. Then they went down.

Upon returning, they told those below that they could now come up, that the ground had been exposed and they could live there. The people prepared to go up and arranged the ladders so they could ascend. The black ladder was placed in a certain position, and people climbed up it until the ladder could no longer support them. Then others began to climb up the blue ladder, then the yellow one, and almost no one was left at the bottom. Then they put in the red ladder, and the remaining people climbed up it. However, some weak old people were left behind: an old man and an old woman. The people moved on, leaving the old people sitting there. The old people shouted to them, "Take us too," but although the people stopped to look, they did not take them. So, one of the old people shouted to them, "You will come back to me."

So, the people went east along four parallel paths, led by four chiefs. Those who took the first path had to fight. Those who took the second path were fortunate and returned without any problems or fights. The people who took the third path had to fight, but at least they made it back. Those who took the fourth path returned without any difficulties. The leadership of the first chief had been unfortunate; that of the second chief, fortunate; that of the third chief, unfortunate; and that of the fourth chief, also fortunate. So, they returned to their own land.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Jicarilla Apaches

The "Dine," "Haisndayin," or "Dinde," which in their language means "The People Who Came from Below," "The People," or "Those Who Emerge," also known as the Jicarilla Apache nation, are one of the semi-nomadic Indigenous peoples of North America. They practiced seasonal agriculture, as well as fishing and hunting deer, buffalo, and other animals in the region that make up the Apache people.

The Apache people formerly migrated from Canada to the northern regions of Mexico, crossing mountains, plains, valleys, canyons, and rivers following the seasons, as well as the migrations of game.

The Jicarilla Apache currently live in New Mexico and have been designated territories or reservations, with the Dulce Reservation being home to more than 90% of their population. The Jicarilla language is part of the Athabascan Apache language family, which also includes other Apache peoples such as the Navajo, Chiricahua, Lipan, Mescalero, Mimbreño, Salinero, Aravaipa, Pinaleño, and Coyotero, among other smaller groups. The Apache peoples are independent, meaning they each have their own autonomous governments and share some unshared traditions.

The Jicarilla have been known for their skill as horsemen and were also called Llaneros (Llaneros) for the regions they inhabited.

Their most important festivals are in July and September, when they welcome visitors not only from their community. The festivities are celebrated with dances, meals, rodeos, and other activities that showcase their traditions and enhance their identity. It is said that those who win during the games will be prosperous in the coming year.

The Spanish named them Jicarilla because of their skill in making baskets; However, their creations and crafts also include leather work and jewelry making.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Apaches Jicarilla

Mito de cómo emergieron

En el principio él creó las montañas que crecían y crecían cada vez más altas. La gente que debía subir desde abajo se reunió alrededor de la montaña observando cómo se creaba todo. Después creó los juncos y éstos también crecían y crecían hacia el cielo. En un momento en que las gentes no miraban, cuatro muchachas subieron y retorcieron los juncos, luego bajaron sin que los demás se dieran cuenta y dejaron así los juncos.

La gente vio que los juncos ya no crecían y trataron de hacerlos crecer en vano, así que le dijeron a alguien: "anda, sube a ver qué ha pasado". Esa persona subió a la montaña y encontró los juncos retorcidos, pero no vio a las muchachas. Así que bajó y les dijo a todos: "los juncos están torcidos".

Las personas hicieron entonces cuatro escaleras: una negra, una azul, una amarilla y una roja. Mientras hacían esto pasó un torbellino que subió al mundo de arriba y miró todo lo que pasaba, al regresar informó que había mucha agua allí. Quien estaba a cargo le dijo al castor que fuera y viera qué había, qué condiciones tenía aquel lugar de arriba del que hablaba el torbellino. Así, el castor subió a ver qué había en el mundo de arriba y encontró que, aunque había mucha agua, ésta retrocedía, así que el castor empezó a juntar pilas de tierra alrededor para retenerla. El castor no bajaba de tanto trabajo que tenía arriba evitando que el agua se fuera.

Quien estaba a cargo se sorprendió que tardara tanto y mandó al tejón a ver qué pasaba, porqué no volvía. El tejón subió en busca del castor y lo encontró construyendo represas para contener el agua. El tejón le preguntó que porqué hacía eso, así el castor le contestó: "Cuando la gente y los niños sientan que mueren de sed, encontrarán aquí agua y podrán tomar de ella", dijo el castor explicándole al tejón lo que hacía. Así, el tejón se fue hacía el lodo y dejó marcas para que pudieran encontrar la represa. Luego bajaron.

Al volver, les dijeron a los de abajo que ya podían subir, que la tierra había quedado expuesta y que ahí podrían habitar. La gente se preparó para subir y acomodaron las escaleras para que pudieran ascender. La escalera negra fue colocada en cierta posición y la gente subió por ahí hasta que la escalera ya no aguantó más. Luego comenzaron a subir otros por la escalera azul, luego por la amarilla y ya casi no quedaba gente abajo. Luego pusieron la escalera roja y por ahí subieron las personas que quedaban. Sin embargo, quedaron atrás unos débiles ancianos: un hombre viejo y una mujer vieja. La gente siguió adelante y dejaron a los ancianos ahí sentados. Los ancianos les gritaron: "llévennos también", pero, aunque las personas se detuvieron a mirar, no se los llevaron. Así, uno de los ancianos les gritó: "Ya volverán ustedes a mí".

Así, las personas se fueron hacia el este por cuatro senderos paralelos entre sí liderados por cuatro jefes. Quienes se fueron por el primer camino tuvieron que pelear. Los que se fueron por el segundo camino fueron afortunados y volvieron sin ningún problema o pelea. Las personas que se fueron por el tercer camino tuvieron que luchar, pero al menos lograron volver. Los que tomaron el cuarto camino volvieron sin ningún tipo de dificultad. El liderazgo del primer jefe había sido desafortunado; el del segundo jefe, afortunado; el del tercer jefe, desafortunado; y el del cuarto jefe, también afortunado. Así, regresaron a su propia tierra.

H-2244 BUFFALO CALF, A JICARILLA APACHE

Los "Dine", "Haisndayin" o "Dinde" que en su lengua significa "Las personas que vinieron desde abajo" o "La gente" o "Los que emergen", también conocidos como la nación Apache Jicarilla, son uno de los pueblos indígenas de Norte América semi nómada, debido a que practicaban la agricultura de temporal, además de la pesca y caza de ciervos, búfalos y otros animales de la región que conforman los pueblos Apache.

Los pueblos Apache, migraban antiguamente desde Canadá hasta las regiones del norte de México, cruzando montañas, planicies, valles, llanuras, cañones y ríos siguiendo las temporadas del año, así como las migraciones de los animales para la caza.

Los Apache Jicarilla actualmente habitan en Nuevo México y se les han destinado territorios o reservas, siendo la reserva de Dulce donde habita más del 90% de su población.

La lengua de los Jicarilla forma parte de la familia de lenguas Atabascanas Apache, de las que forman parte también otros pueblos Apache como los: Navajo, Chiricahua, Lipan, Mescalero, Mimbreño, Salinero, Aravaipa, Pinaleño, Coyotero, entre otros grupos más pequeños. Los pueblos Apache son independientes entre sí, es decir, cada uno tienen sus propios gobiernos autónomos y tienen algunas tradiciones no compartidad.

Los Jicarilla han sido conocidos por su destreza como jinetes y se les denominaba también Llaneros por las regiones en que habitaban.

Sus fiestas más importantes son en Julio y en Septiembre, en las que reciben a visitantes no sólo de su comunidad. Las festividades se celebran con danzas, comidas, rodeos y otro tipo de actividades que muestran su tradición y realzan su identidad. Se dice que quienes ganan durante los juegos, serán quienes tendrán properidad el año entrante.

Los españoles les denominaron Jicarilla por su habilidad en la elaboración de canastillas; no obstante, sus creaciones y artesanías también incluyen el trabajo de pieles y la elaboración de joyería.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
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De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,

Eric R. Sabree

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